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THANOS!
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WENDELL VAUGHN . . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

QUASAR!

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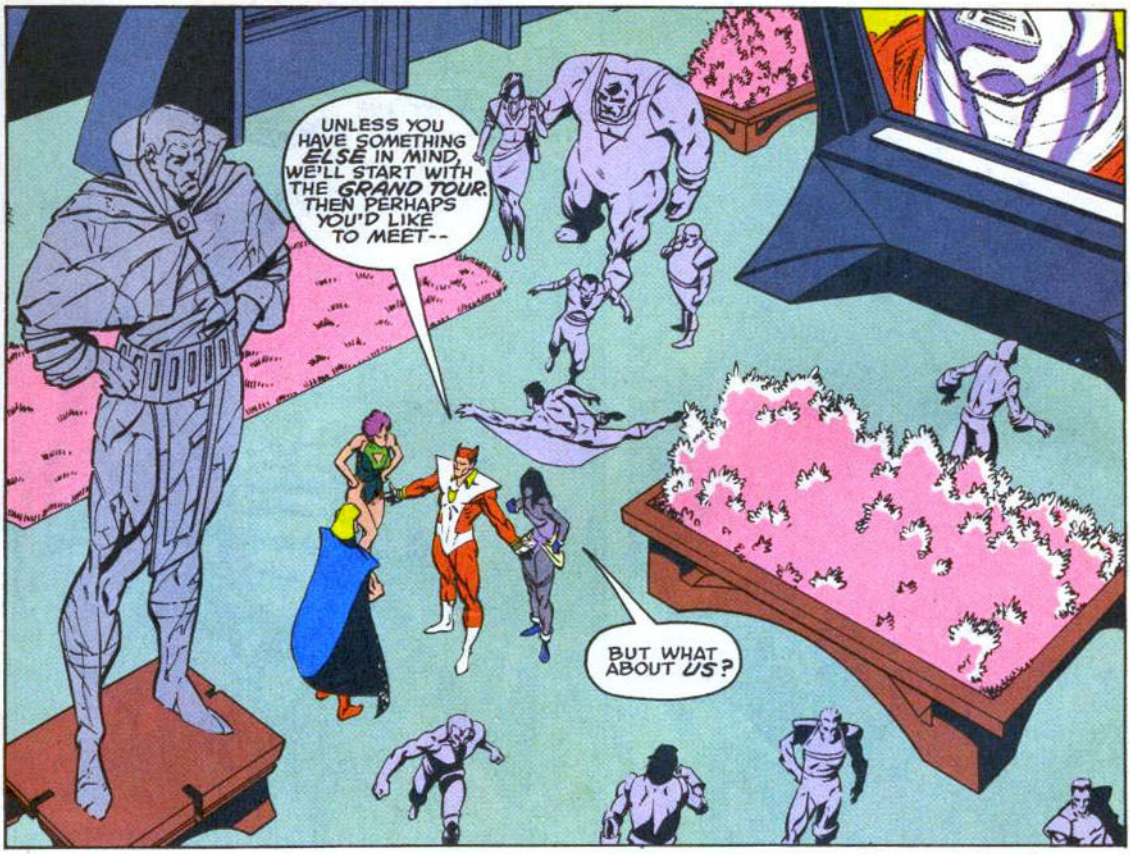
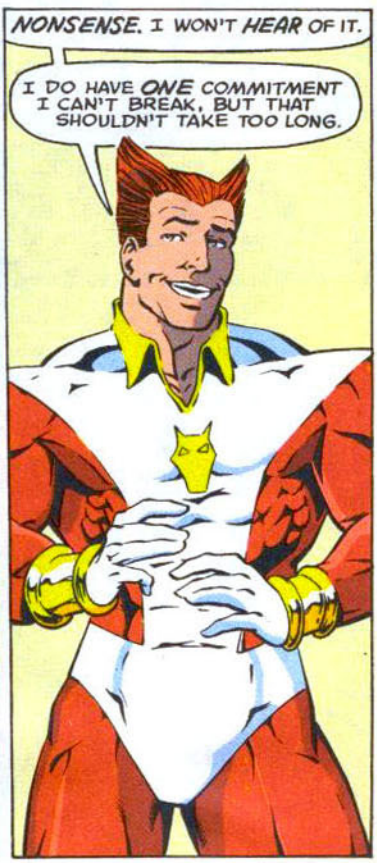
OH MY GOD
I EXPECTED TITAN TO BE PRETTY GRAND... BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS.
THIS... THIS IS SO COOL.

QUASAR!
STARFOX? WHERE ARE--
OVER HERE.
WELCOME TO MY HOME. WELCOME TO TITAN.
I SEE YOU'RE ALREADY ENJOYING THE SIGHTS.
IT'S MAGNIFICENT. HARD TO BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY INSIDE ONE OF SATURN'S MOONS.
VERY FEW FROM EARTH HAVE EVER SET FOOT ON TITAN.
SO I HEAR. I'M FLATTERED YOU INVITED ME, STARFOX.
CERTAINLY. YOU ARE A FELLOW AVENGER.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I PREFER EROS. "STARFOX" WAS SOMEBODY ELSE'S IDEA.


UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND, WE'LL START WITH THE GRAND TOUR. THEN PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO MEET--
BUT WHAT ABOUT US?

WE HAVE PLANS. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO DO THINGS.

UM... I DON'T WANT TO INTERRUPT ANYTHING. I COULD COME BACK ANOTHER TIME.


NONSENSE. I WON'T HEAR OF IT.
I DO HAVE ONE COMMITMENT I CAN'T BREAK, BUT THAT SHOULDN'T TAKE TOO LONG.

YOU TWO RUN ALONG. I'LL MEET YOU LATER. PROMISE.

WELL...

...OKAY.

LOOK, REALLY, I DON'T WANT TO KEEP YOU FROM--

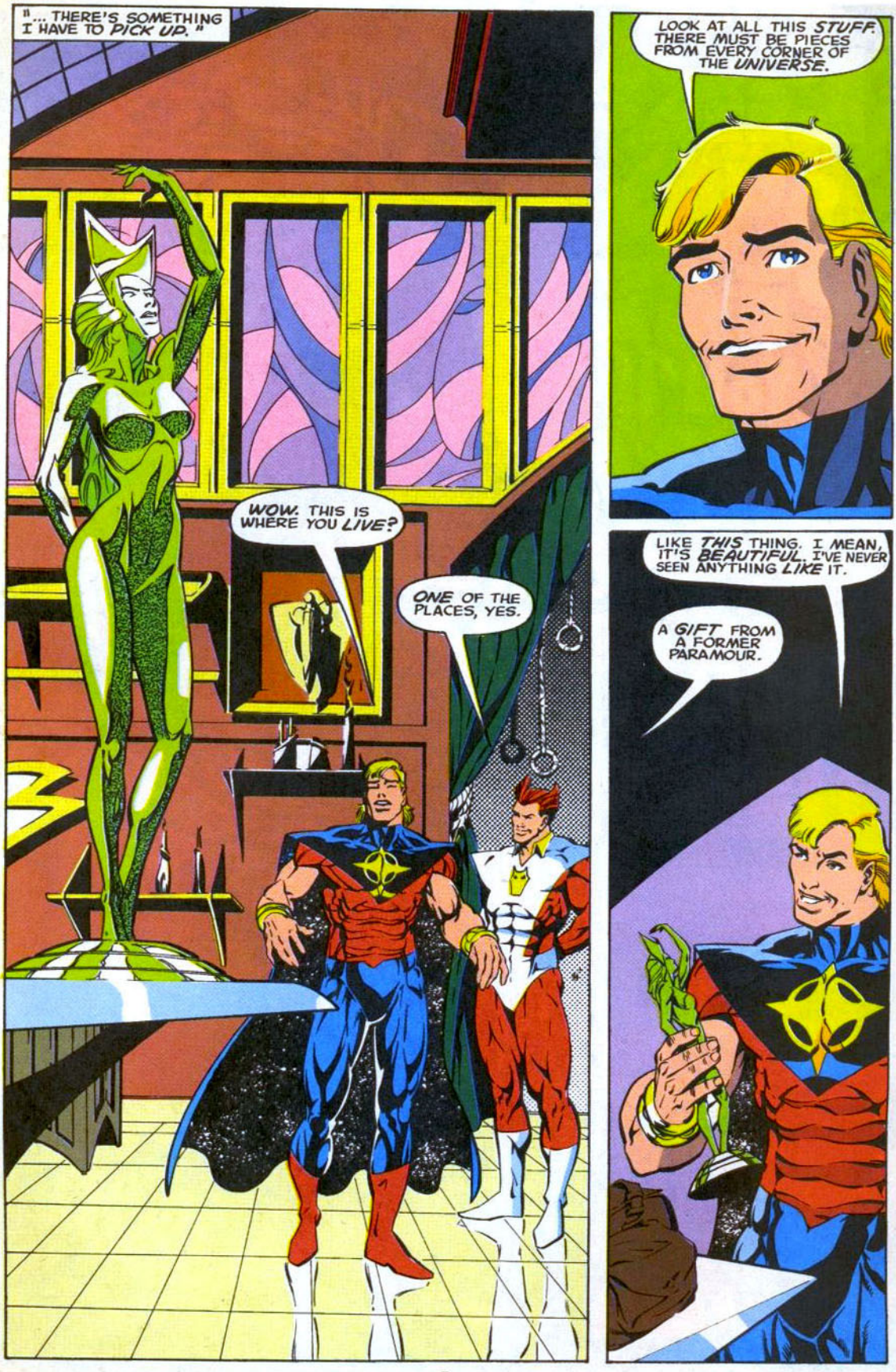
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. THEY'LL WAIT. THEY ALWAYS DO.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY I GET TO SHOW AROUND THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

IF YOU SAY SO. BUT IF I HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN ME AND THOSE WOMEN... I'D LOSE.

YOUR HONESTY IS REFRESHING.

NOW COME THIS WAY. WE HAVE TO STOP BY MY CHAMBERS...


"... THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO PICK UP."
WOW. THIS IS WHERE YOU LIVE?
ONE OF THE PLACES, YES.
LOOK AT ALL THIS STUFF. THERE MUST BE PIECES FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE.
LIKE THIS THING. I MEAN, IT'S BEAUTIFUL. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
A GIFT FROM A FORMER PARAMOUR.

CAREFUL, SHE *BITES*.

GEEZ!

SO DID THE FORMER PARAMOUR.

SORRY. DIDN'T MEAN TO *UPSET* HER.

I NEVER DID, EITHER. NO *HARM* DONE.

YOU KNOW, I SEE *EVERYTHING* YOU HAVE-- ALL THIS *LUXURY*, THE *WOMEN* -- AND I WONDER WHY YOU EVER *LEFT* TITAN.* WHY JOIN THE *AVENGERS*?

WANDERLUST. THIRST FOR *ADVENTURE*.

*AVENGERS #230.-- AVENGIN' MIKE

WE *ETERNALS* ARE A LONG-LIVED RACE. I FIND NEAR-IMMORTALITY CAN BE... *TEDIOUS*. ANY CHANCE FOR *STIMULATION* IS WELCOME.

HERE'S WHAT I *CAME* FOR. I HAVE AN *ERRAND* TO RUN...

"...IF YOU DON'T MIND *JOINING* ME."

THIS IS SO *REMOTE*, EROS.

I'VE NEVER BEEN IN SUCH A DESOLATE SPOT.
EXACTLY THE KIND OF PLACE I NEED.
FOR WHAT? YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED WHAT WE'RE DOING OUT HERE.
THIS IS SOMETHING I DO EVERY YEAR. A TRADITION, I GUESS YOU'D CALL IT.
WHAT, SPEND ONE DAY A YEAR IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE? ALONE?
NO. NOT ALONE.

WITH HIS BROTHER!

THANOS!

IF YOU CAME HERE LOOKING FOR A SCRAP I'D BE HAPPY TO--
EASY, QUASAR. THANOS WILL DO NO HARM TODAY. NOT THIS DAY.
WHY? WHY'S TODAY SO SPECIAL?
WE CALL IT THE TRUCE. GROWING UP, MY ELDER SIBLING AND I DID NOT HAVE THE MOST... HARMONIOUS OF RELATIONSHIPS.
OUR DISAGREEMENTS WERE, AT TIMES QUITE VIOLENT... A FACT THAT CAME TO CONCERN OUR FATHER GREATLY.
SO MENTOR COMMANDED THAT ONE DAY WE WOULD SET ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES AND REMEMBER THE SAME BLOOD FLOWS IN OUR VEINS.
IT'S A PRACTICE WE CONTINUE THIS DAY.
I DON'T FORGET THAT NO MATTER WHAT THANOS HAS DONE IN THE PAST...
...HE'S STILL MY BROTHER.

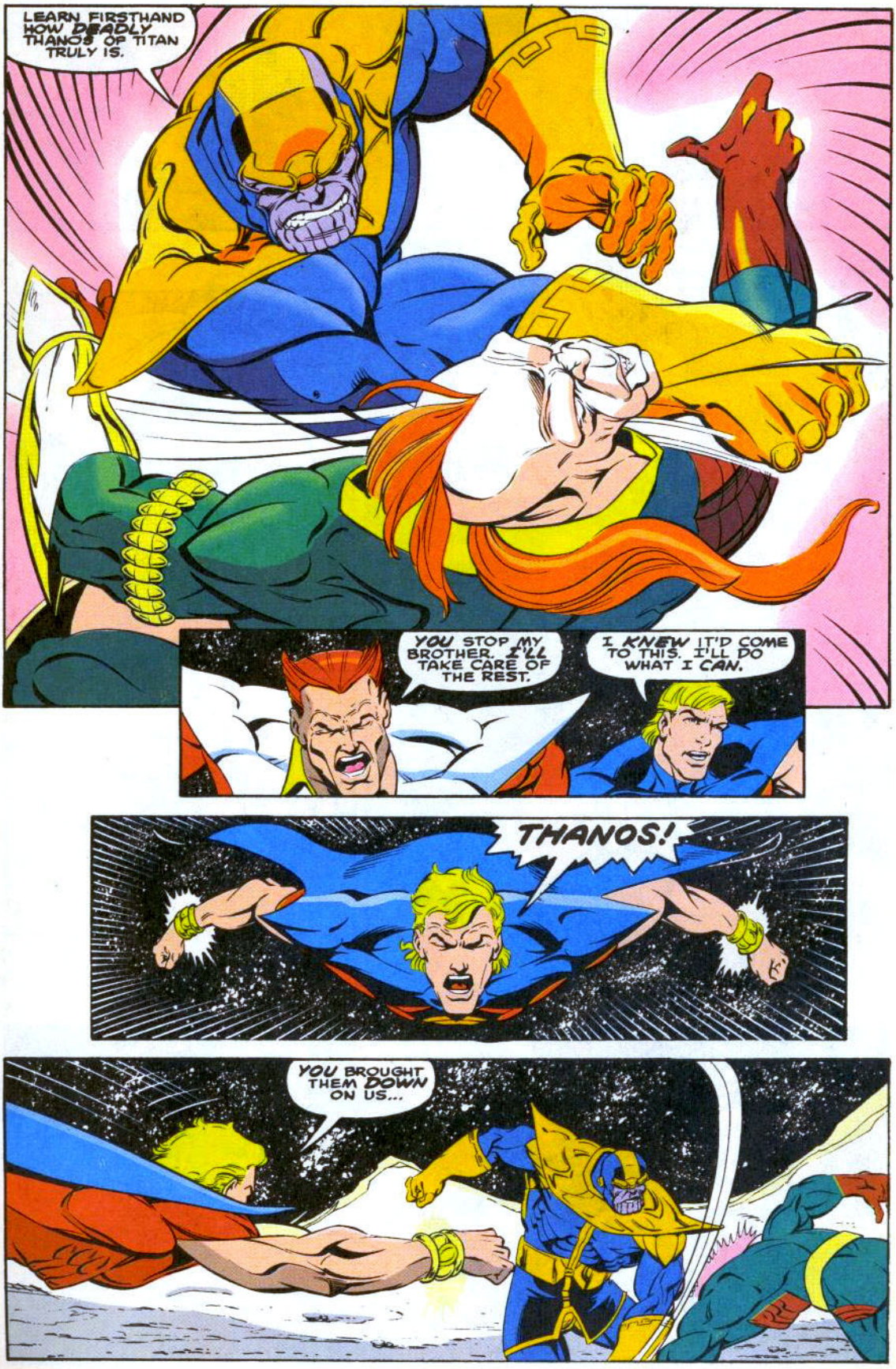
THIS IS TRUE?
INDEED.
YOU NEED NOT FEAR ME TODAY, QUASAR. YOU ARE HERE WITH MY BROTHER, AND THE CHARITY I AFFORD HIM EXTENDS TO YOU.
HOW CAN I TRUST YOU? WE HAVE FOUGHT BITTERLY IN THE PAST.*
*INFINITY GAUNTLET #4 FOR INSTANCE. --MIKE
YOU DON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME? OR COVET THE POWER OF MY QUANTUM BANDS?
I WISH TO BE THE PROTECTOR OF NOTHING, MUCH LESS THE UNIVERSE.
I NO LONGER DREAM THE DREAM OF CONQUEST. THE MIGHT YOU POSSESS HOLDS NO ATTRACTION FOR ME.
WHICH IS, OF COURSE, A BLESSING FOR YOU.

BELIEVE HIM, QUASAR.
MY BROTHER MAY HAVE AN EVIL REPUTATION, BUT HE IS A MAN OF HIS WORD USUALLY.
I FOUND THIS IN FATHER'S HOUSE. I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE IT.
HOW TOUCHING. MYSELF AS A CHILD.
THANK YOU, BROTHER. I ALSO HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.
IT IS CALLED THE DESTINY CRYSTAL.
IT IS SAID IF YOU LOOK DEEPLY ENOUGH INTO ITS FACETS, YOU WILL SEE YOUR OWN FUTURE.
PERHAPS SUCH A TALE IS ONLY LEGEND, BUT EVEN SO, I KNOW HOW YOU ADORE PRETTY THINGS.
THIEF!

WE HAVE TRACKED YOU LONG AND HARD, THANOS OF TITAN, SINCE YOU STOLE THE CRYSTAL FROM THE ROYAL TREASURE HOUSE OF THE KHARTA'EEN EMPIRE.
WE ARE THE ROYAL GUARD, AND WE ARE TO RETRIEVE IT.
NOW.
YOU GAVE ME A STOLEN GIFT?
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT.

OBVIOUSLY THERE'S A MISUNDER-STANDING. WE'LL BE GLAD TO RETURN THE CRYSTAL TO YOU.
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE...
...BECAUSE THE PENALTY FOR ROYAL THIEVERY IS DEATH.
BLAGOM

APPARENTLY, TALES OF THE DEADLY THANOS WERE EXAGGERATED.
I HAVE THE CRYSTAL INCINERATE THE BODIES AND WE--
GAAAK!
THANOS! DON'T KILL HIM!


LEARN FIRSTHAND HOW DEADLY THANOS OF TITAN TRULY IS.
YOU STOP MY BROTHER. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
I KNEW IT'D COME TO THIS. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
THANOS!
YOU BROUGHT THEM DOWN ON US...

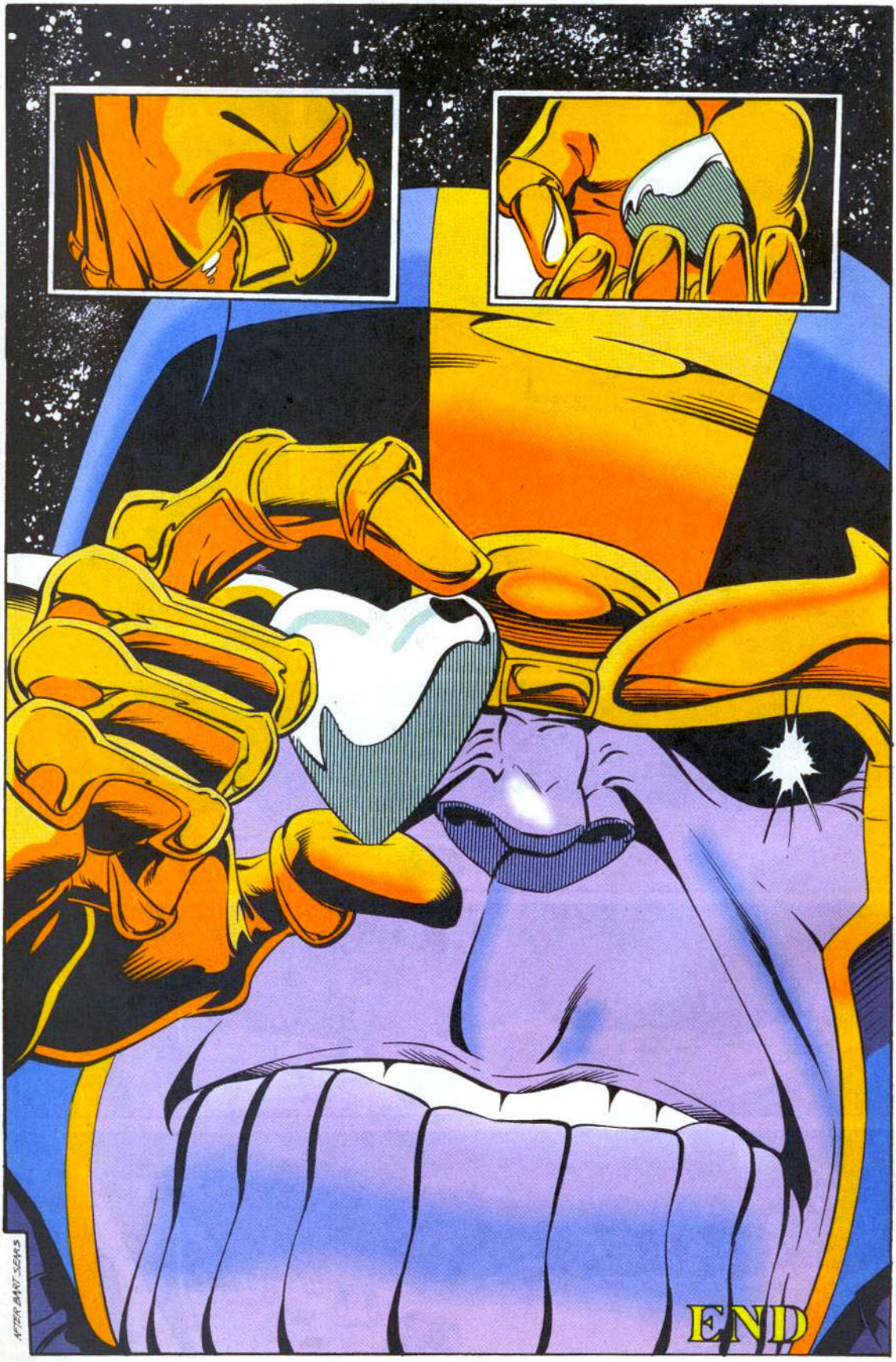
...I WON'T LET YOU MAKE IT WORSE!
THEY INTENDED TO KILL US, YOU IDEALISTIC FOOL.
I'M GOING TO RETURN THE FAVOR.
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME TO DO IT.
DON'T INTERFERE, QUASAR. YOU'LL REGRET IT.
I WON'T LET YOU BUTCHER THESE MEN. NOT WHILE I LIVE.

AS YOU WISH.

YOU HAVE COURAGE ENOUGH TO CALL MY BLUFF, QUASAR. ADMIRABLE.
I PREVIOUSLY GAVE MY WORD, AND THE WORD OF THANOS IS BOND. YOU WILL SUFFER NO HARM AT MY HAND.
FOR NOW.

NICE TO SEE YOU BOYS GETTING ALONG.
I'M HAPPY TO REPORT OUR GUESTS ARE BEHAVING QUITE REASONABLY AS WELL.
IN FACT, THEY'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE PEACEFULLY, SINCE THEY HAVE WHAT THEY CAME FOR.
YES... WE'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE PEACEFULLY...
... SINCE WE HAVE WHAT WE CAME FOR.
YOU DID THAT, DIDN'T YOU? WITH YOUR MENTAL POWERS?
I ONLY SUGGESTED THEY'D STILL FEEL MUCH BETTER IF THEY DIDN'T EXECUTE US OVER A SLIGHT DISAGREEMENT. THEY CONCURRED.

WELL, BROTHER, A TRUCE TO REMEMBER, WAS IT NOT?
THERE WAS SOME SLIGHT INTEREST TO IT, THOUGH I THINK THIS PARTICULAR REUNION IS BEST ENDED NOW.
VERY WELL THEN. I WISH YOU SAFETY UNTIL WE AGAIN MEET.
YOU AS WELL.
AND EROS?
YES?
NEXT YEAR... COME ALONE.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